GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:300
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011
DEPOSITS OF RARE EARTHS
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Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether commercially exploitable deposits of rare earths exist in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to produce rare earths and export it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) Monazite is the principal source of rare earths in India. As per the report of Atomic Mineral Directorate for Exploration & Research (AMDER), Hyderabad, the reserves of Monazite in India is about 10.70 million tonnes which translates to approx. 5 million tonnes of rare earth oxide.

(b) The state-wise resources of Monazite established by AMD are as follows:

S.No.	State	Monazite (in million tons) (as of August 2009)
1	Kerala#	1.51
2	Tamil Nadu	2.16
3	Andhra Pradesh	3.74
4	Orissa	1.85
5	West Bengal	1.22
6	Bihar	0.22
	Total	10.70

including resources of lake and sea bed.

AMD has established about 2000 tons of xenotime bearing heavy minerals concentrate containing about 2% xenotime in the riverine heavy minerals placer deposits of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand States.

(c) Indian Rare Earths Ltd.(IREL), a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy is setting up a Monazite processing plant in Orissa for processing of 10,000 tonnes of monazite and to produce 11,000 tonnes of Rare Earths Chloride per annum.

A part of the said production will be transferred to the Rare Earths Division, Alwaye for producing highly pure separated rare earths (RE) and RE compounds to meet the domestic as well as export requirements.